

sovereign treat them as subjects, and even oblige them to consider themselves as such. Those famous Saxons, who had made Charlemagne tremble, threw themselves on the protection of the Emperor; and the alliance of the head of the House of Saxony was not a matter of indifference to Napoleon, for the new King was, on account of his age, his tastes, and his character, more revered than any other German Prince.

From the moment of Napoleon's arrival at Warsaw until the commencement of hostilities against the Russians he was continually solicited to re-establish the throne of Poland, and to restore its chivalrous independence to the ancient empire of the Jagellons. A person who was at that time in Warsaw told me that the Emperor was in the greatest uncertainty as to what he should do respecting Poland. He was entreated to re-establish that ancient and heroic kingdom; but he came to no decision, preferring, according to custom, to submit to events, that he might appear to command them. At Warsaw, indeed, the Emperor passed a great part of his time *in fetes* and reviews, which, however, did not prevent him from watching, with his eagle eye, every department of the public service, both interior and exterior.<sup>1</sup> He himself was in the capital of

20,000 men, was now increased to 30,000. In February, 1813, the duchy was broken up, Posen was restored to Prussia, part of Galicia to Austria, Cracow was made independent, and the rest annexed to Russia, Alexander taking the title of King of Poland. Saxony had been raised from an electorate to a kingdom when it joined the Confederation of the Rhine, 11th December, 1801; thus Bourrienne calls it the new kingdom.

Our halt at Warsaw was delightful. "With the exception of theatres, the city presented all the gayeties of Paris. Twice a week the Emperor gave a concert: after which a court was held, which led again to numerous meetings in private parties. On these occasions the personal beauty and graceful manners of the Polish ladies were conspicuous. It may truly be said that they excited the jealousy of the most charming women of other nations. With the most polished elegance they combine a fund of information which is not usually found even among Frenchwomen; and they are very superior to the generality of women bred in cities, to whom habit renders company almost a necessary of life. The Polish ladies of rank always pass one-half of the year in the country, where probably they apply themselves to reading and the cultivation of their minds; and they return to spend the winter season in the capital, graced with those talents and accomplishments which render them so peculiarly attractive."

The Emperor and all the French officers paid their tribute of admiration to the charms of the fair Poles. There was one whose powerful fascinations made a deep impression on the Emperor's heart. He conceived an ardent affection for her, which she cordially returned. She received with pride the homage of a conquest which was the consummation of her happiness. It is